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LITTLE BOOK OF LONDON



JOSEPH PENNELL

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A·LITTLE·BOOK·OF
LONDON
by Joseph Pennell

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A LITTLE BOOK OF LONDON

BY JOSEPH PENNELL

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I.

LONDON BRIDGE STAIRS

ALTHOUGH ÆSTHETICALLY LONDON BRIDGE MAY HAVE ITS SUPERIORS, IT IS CERTAIN THAT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NATIONAL UTILITY ITS SUPREME POSITION IS UNAPPROACHABLE. EACH DAY, UNDER ITS MASSIVE STONE ARCHES, PASS AN ALMOST ENDLESS PROCESSION OF RIVER CRAFT. FOR THE BIGGER SHIPS AND SAILING VESSELS ITS NETWORK OF WHARFS AND LANDING-STAGES FORM THE BOUNDARY LINE WHERE CARGOES ARE DISBURSED OR STOWED AT WILL; AND FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF OUR POPULATION LONDON BRIDGE IS THE "GREAT PATHWAY FROM NORTH TO SOUTH OF THE CITY."

OLD LONDON BRIDGE WAS BUILT DURING THE REIGN OF KING JOHN, AND WAS SUPERSEDED BY THE PRESENT LARGER STRUCTURE IN 1831. IT WAS ACROSS THE OLD BRIDGE THAT WAT TYLER ENTERED WITH HIS BAND OF REBELS, AND LATER, WHEN JACK CADE INVADED THE CITY HIS HEAD WAS PROMPTLY CHOPPED OFF AND PLACED IN A CONSPICUOUS POSITION ON THE GATE-HOUSE AT THE BRIDGE'S ENTRANCE. AT ONE TIME, TOO, LONDON BRIDGE, WAS THE SCENE OF CONSIDERABLE CEREMONIAL AND PAGEANTRY, FOR HERE LONDON WAS WONT TO WELCOME HER KINGS.

IN CONNECTION WITH LONDON BRIDGE IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES THE THAMES WAS OFTEN USED BY THE NOBILITY AND OTHERS FOR BATHING.

HORACE WALPOLE, ON ONE OCCASION, TOLD LADY CRAVEN THAT LORD CHESTERFIELD HAD ADDRESSED A LETTER TO HIS FRIEND, LORD PEMBROKE, WHO DELIGHTED IN A SWIM IN THAT PART OF THE RIVER, "TO THE EARL OF PEMBROKE, IN THE THAMES, OVER AGAINST WHITEHALL."



II.

CLOCK TOWER, WESTMINSTER

IT WAS JOHN RUSKIN WHO DEPLORED THE "INNUMERABLE STRAIGHT LINES OF THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND ITS CLOCK TOWER." BOTH, THAT WRITER MAINTAINED, WERE GLARING INSTANCES OF THE LACK OF IMAGINATION OF THEIR MODERN ENGLISH ARCHITECT, SIR CHARLES BARRY, ALTHOUGH AT THE SAME TIME HE ADMITTED THAT THE CLOCK TOWER WAS STATELY. IT IS IN THE CLOCK TOWER THAT BIG BEN AND HIS CHIMES, FAMILIAR TO EVERY LONDONER, ARE BUILT.



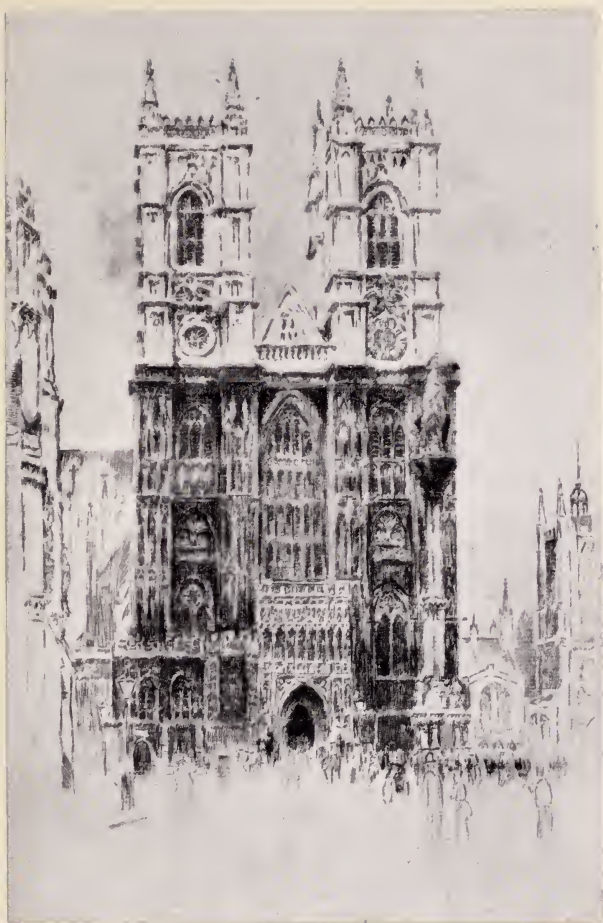
III.

WEST FRONT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

IT WAS DEAN STANLEY WHO SAID THAT "WESTMINSTER ABBEY STANDS ALONE AMONGST THE BUILDINGS OF THE WORLD. THERE ARE, IT MAY BE, SOME WHICH SURPASS IT IN BEAUTY OR GRANDEUR; THERE ARE OTHERS, CERTAINLY, WHICH SURPASS IT IN DEPTH AND SUBLIMITY OF ASSOCIATION; BUT THERE IS NONE WHICH HAS BEEN ENTWINED BY SO MANY CONTINUOUS THREADS WITH THE HISTORY OF A WHOLE NATION."

THE ABBEY WAS ORIGINALLY FOUNDED BY SEBERT, KING OF THE EAST SAXONS, EARLY IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY. FROM THIS TIME ONWARDS IT HAS UNDERGONE FREQUENT RESTORATION AND ENLARGEMENT, AND ON TWO OCCASIONS, AT LEAST, HAS BEEN ENTIRELY REBUILT.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, AS IT STANDS AT THE PRESENT TIME, DIFFERS VERY SLIGHTLY IN EXTERNALS FROM THE ABBEY IN THE DAYS OF HENRY VII. THE ONLY IMPORTANT MODERN ADDITION IS WREN'S TWO WESTERN TOWERS. HERE IS ENGLAND'S TEMPLE OF FAME, FOR WITHIN ITS NARROW SPACE LIE KINGS AND QUEENS, PRINCES AND NOBLES, AND THE GREAT AND MIGHTY IN LITERATURE, IN ART, IN SCIENCE AND IN STATESMANSHIP. THE ABBEY IS "THE SILENT RESTING-PLACE OF THE DEAD OF EIGHT CENTURIES," THE "GREAT TEMPLE OF SILENCE AND RECONCILIATION WHERE THE ENMITIES OF TWENTY GENERATIONS LIE BURIED."



IV.

BRITISH MUSEUM

ON THE SITE OF THE OLD HISTORIC MONTAGUE HOUSE HAS ARISEN THE IMPOSING EDIFICE KNOWN TO-DAY AS THE BRITISH MUSEUM. COMMENCING WITH THE BEQUEST OF SIR HANS SLOANE'S LIBRARY, ITS TREASURES HAVE GROWN UNTIL THE PRESENT ENORMOUS MUSEUM COLLECTIONS HAVE NECESSITATED THE ADDING OF A NEW WING TO THE BUILDING. APART FROM ITS LONG GALLERIES CROWDED WITH OBJECTS OF SCIENTIFIC OR ARTISTIC VALUE, AND ITS READING ROOM, IT JUSTLY RANKS AMONGST THE FOREMOST OF OUR LONDON BUILDINGS FOR ITS ARCHITECTURAL DISTINCTION.



V.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE

APART FROM ITS OLD TUDOR GATEWAY, THE EXTERIOR OF ST. JAMES'S PALACE IS ALMOST FEATURELESS. UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY THE PALACE WAS THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN. FOR THIS REASON IT IS RICH IN HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH IN SOME MEASURE COMPENSATE FOR ITS LACK OF ARCHITECTURAL QUALITIES.

IT WAS AT ST. JAMES'S THAT CHARLES THE FIRST SPENT THE LAST THREE DAYS OF HIS LIFE. QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN CAROLINE DIED WITHIN ITS PRECINCTS, WHILST CHARLES THE SECOND AND GEORGE THE FOURTH WERE BORN THERE.

THE FREQUENT SCENES OF SPLENDOUR AND COURT CEREMONIAL WHICH WERE COMMON DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE, GEORGE I. AND GEORGE II., ARE NOW SELDOM SEEN HERE, EXCEPT AT AN OCCASIONAL "KING'S LEVÉE."



VI.

CLASSIC LONDON

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH & NATIONAL GALLERY

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS, COMPLETED IN 1721, IS CONSIDERED TO BE JAMES GIBBS'S FINEST WORK. FROM WITHOUT, ITS SPIRE, ITS LOFTY CORINTHIAN COLUMNS AND ITS MASSIVE BALL AND VANE ARE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES. AT ONE TIME MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE FREQUENT WORSHIPERS AT THE CHURCH.

SITUATED IMMEDIATELY OPPOSITE ST. MARTIN'S IS THE NATIONAL GALLERY. FROM ITS FIRST INSTALMENT OF THIRTY-EIGHT PICTURES, PURCHASED BY THE NATION FROM MR ANGERSTEIN IN 1824, HAS GROWN THE PRESENT LARGE AND PRICELESS COLLECTION OF ART TREASURES. QUITE ONE-THIRD OF ITS WORKS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY PARLIAMENTARY GRANTS, WHILST ITS PRIVATE SUPPORTERS INCLUDE WILLIAM IV., LORD FARNBOROUGH, TURNER, AND LORD COLBORNE. SINCE ITS COMPLETE REORGANISATION IN 1887, THE AUTHORITIES AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY HAVE PAID CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE GROWTH AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE COLLECTIONS, SO THAT ITS VALUE AND IMPORTANCE NOW RANKS HIGH AMONGST THE PUBLIC COLLECTIONS OF EUROPE.



VII.

SOMERSET HOUSE

THE SOMERSET HOUSE OF TO-DAY OCCUPIES THE SITE WHERE FORMALLY STOOD THE GREAT RIVER PALACE, BUILT BY THE LORD PROTECTOR SOMERSET. IT HAD BEEN THE LATTER'S INTENTION TO MAKE THIS GRAND EDIFICE HIS RESIDENCE, BUT A STROKE FROM THE EXECUTIONER'S AXE HAVING MEANTIME DEPRIVED THE DUKE OF HIS HEAD, SOMERSET HOUSE WAS THEREBY ROBBED OF THAT DISTINCTION.

PEPYS TELLS US THAT FOR GENERATIONS SOMERSET HOUSE WAS THE RESIDENCE OF THE WIVES OF THE STUART KINGS, AND THAT HERE THE UNHAPPY AND NEGLECTED CONSORT OF CHARLES II., CATHERINE OF BRAGANZA, USED TO SIT ALL NIGHT PLAYING "OMBRE." IT WAS HERE, TOO, IN 1685, THAT THREE MEMBERS OF CATHERINE'S HOUSEHOLD DECEIVED SIR EDMONDSBURY GODFREY INTO THE PALACE, AND THERE STRANGLLED HIM. THE PRESENT EDIFICE HAS ONLY STOOD FOR A LITTLE MORE THAN A CENTURY, AND IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN.

THE NINE ARCHES THAT FORM THE FRONTAGE OF THE BASEMENT HAVE KEYSTONES REPRESENTING THE OCEAN AND THE EIGHT PRINCIPAL RIVERS OF ENGLAND. EACH KEYSTONE IS MOUNTED WITH A COLOSSAL HEAD, THE WORK, IT IS SAID, OF WILTON AND CARLINI.

SOMERSET HOUSE, IN EARLIER DAYS THE RETREAT OF KINGS AND QUEENS, IS NOW A VAST GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENT, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE AS THE INLAND REVENUE OFFICE.



VIII.

TOWER BRIDGE

ONE CAN NEVER STAND ON LONDON BRIDGE FOR ANY CONSIDERABLE TIME WITHOUT WISHING TO SEIZE THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH THE TOWER BRIDGE, ITS NEIGHBOUR. SEEN FROM THE FORMER THE TOWER BRIDGE GIVES ONE THE IMPRESSION OF SOME GIGANTIC MEDIÆVAL FORTRESS. M. GABRIEL

MOUREY THUS DESCRIBES IT :—

“THE TOWER BRIDGE, THE WATER-GATE OF THE CAPITAL, IS A COLOSSAL SYMBOL OF THE BRITISH GENIUS LOOK AT ITS TWO TOWERS, HOW SQUARE AND SOLID THEY ARE. THEIR TIPS ARE CROWNED BY STEEPLES, THE ROOFS ARE POINTED, THE WINDOWS STRAIGHT, WITH POINTED ARCHES. IT LOOKS LIKE THE GATE TO SOME STRONG TOWER OF THE MIDDLE AGES . . . BUT LOOK AGAIN, AND THE IMPRESSION BECOMES MORE COMPLEX. LIGHT AND AIRY, LIKE CLEAR LACE, AN IRON FOOT-BRIDGE JOINS THE TWO TOWERS ACROSS THE ABYSS. ANOTHER, LOWER DOWN, ON THE LEVEL OF THE BANKS, LIFTS UP TO LET BIG SHIPS PASS AS UNDER A TRIUMPHAL ARCH. AND ALL THE AUDACITY OF THE MODERN ARCHITECTS, WHICH IS TO CREATE THE WORKS OF THE FUTURE, HERE BURSTS FORTH, SUSPENDED ON THE HEAVY FOUNDATIONS OF THE PAST, WITH SO MUCH MEASURE AND PROPORTION THAT NOTHING OFFENDS IN THE MEDLEY OF ARCHAISM AND MODERNITY.”



IX.

HYDE PARK CORNER

ON ONE SIDE OF HYDE PARK CORNER IS THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO HYDE PARK, LONDON'S OLDEST AND LARGEST PARK, AND ON THE OTHER THE ENTRANCE TO THE GREEN PARK, LEADING TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE. FOR GENERATIONS THE ARISTOCRACY HAS MONOPOLISED THE VICINITY OF HYDE PARK CORNER, WHICH TO-DAY IS ONE OF LONDON'S BUSIEST THOROUGHFARES.

IT WAS OUTSIDE APSLEY HOUSE, HYDE PARK CORNER, THAT HUGE CROWDS GATHERED EACH DAY TO WATCH FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE "IRON DUKE," THAT OLD MAN IN THE BLUE COAT AND WHITE TROUSERS, WHO, IN HIS DAYS OF COMPARATIVE RETIREMENT, COULD BE SEEN DAILY MAKING CALLS IN THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD.



X.

MARBLE ARCH

THE MARBLE ARCH, THE NORTH-EASTERN ENTRANCE TO HYDE PARK, IS TO-DAY ONE OF THE MOST FAMILIAR SPOTS IN LONDON. IT WAS HERE, DURING THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES, THAT CROWDS OF SPECTATORS GATHERED TO WITNESS PUBLIC EXECUTIONS AT TYBURN GATE. IT IS RECORDED THAT ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXECUTION OF LORD LOVAT IN 1747, A LARGE SCAFFOLDING, CONTAINING SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS WHO HAD ASSEMBLED TO "ENJOY" THE SPECTACLE, SUDDENLY COLLAPSED, KILLING TWELVE OF THEM. THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED A MINUTE OR TWO PREVIOUS TO THE FALLING OF THE EXECUTIONER'S AXE, AND IT IS SAID THAT LORD LOVAT, EVEN AT THAT TERRIBLE MOMENT, WAS MUCH AMUSED BY THE UNUSUAL INCIDENT. LARGE CROWDS STILL GATHER NEAR THE MARBLE ARCH INSIDE THE PARK, A POSITION THAT HAS NOW BECOME A RECOGNISED PLACE FOR THE HOLDING OF OPEN-AIR PUBLIC MEETINGS.



XI.

THE HORSE GUARDS

THE BUILDING KNOWN AS THE HORSE GUARDS IS ONE OF SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN WHITEHALL WHICH IN FORMER DAYS WERE ROYAL PALACES AND HAVE SINCE BECOME IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL HEADQUARTERS. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY THE HORSE GUARDS WAS THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AND ALL MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE ARMY WERE DIRECTED FROM HERE. ALTHOUGH THE BUILDING IS STILL UTILISED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, THE CHIEF ARMY STAFF HAVE REMOVED TO THE WAR OFFICE IN PALL MALL.

IN THE REAR OF THE BUILDING MILITARY REVIEWS ARE HELD, AT WHICH MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY USUALLY ATTEND. IN THE COURTYARD MAY BE SEEN SEVERAL CANNONS, RELICS OF THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN OF THE "IRON DUKE."



XII.

THE PORTICOES, PALL MALL

WITH ITS PALATIAL CLUBS, MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, AND AT EACH EXTREME END, ST. JAMES'S PALACE AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY, PALL MALL IS A VERITABLE CITY OF IMPOSING BUILDINGS. UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST CENTURY, ITS BUILDINGS CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF THE RESIDENCES OF PERSONAGES CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CROWN OR STATE.

IN THE YEAR 1832 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY COMMISSIONED THE BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY. THE AVENUE OF MASSIVE COLUMNS WHICH FORM THE FOREFRONT OF THE BUILDING GIVE A DISTINCTIVENESS TO ITS ARCHITECTURE PROBABLY UNSURPASSED BY ANY OTHER LONDON BUILDING. FORMERLY THESE SAME COLUMNS—WHICH FORM WHAT IS NOW FAMILIARLY KNOWN AS “THE PORTICOES”—STOOD AROUND OLD CARLTON HOUSE.



XIII.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, A NOTORIOUSLY INSECURE HIGHWAY IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, HAS NOW BECOME ONE OF LONDON'S MAIN THOROUGHFARES. EXTENDING FROM HYDE PARK CORNER TO KENSINGTON GARDENS, IT CONTAINS AMONG ITS MANY FINE MANSIONS KENT HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS OF THE DUKE OF KENT, FATHER OF QUEEN VICTORIA, AND ALFORD HOUSE, AN IMPOSING MODERN BUILDING OF BRICK AND TERRA-COTTA. FURTHER WEST IS THE ALBERT HALL—A VERITABLE PALACE OF MUSIC—AND KNIGHTSBRIDGE BARRACKS.



XIV.

WREN'S CITY FROM MY WINDOWS

FROM ALMOST ANY OF THE BRIDGES WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON, ONE MAY SEE IN ABUNDANCE THE WORK OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN. DURING THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GREAT FIRE OF 1666 WREN WAS COMMISSIONED TO BUILD FIFTY-THREE CHURCHES. HAD HIS ORIGINAL PROPOSALS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE KING AND PARLIAMENT, WE SHOULD, IN ADDITION TO THE CHURCHES, HAVE HAD AN ALMOST NEW CITY. IN ALL HIS WORK, WREN HAS SHOWN "AN INEXHAUSTIBLE FERTILITY OF INVENTION, COMBINED WITH GOOD NATURAL TASTE AND PROFOUND KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF HIS ART."

PRIOR TO THE BUILDING OF WAREHOUSES AND WHARVES WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE SO RAPIDLY IN RECENT TIMES, IT IS DOUBTFUL IF THE VIEW OF THE CITY OF LONDON FROM THE BRIDGES AT BLACKFRIARS OR WATERLOO COULD HAVE BEEN SURPASSED BY ANY OTHER CITY IN THE WORLD.



ST. CLEMENT DANES

ALTHOUGH OLD ST. CLEMENT DANES ESCAPED THE GREAT FIRE, THE CONDITION OF ITS WALLS AND PILLARS TOWARDS THE CLOSE OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NECESSITATED ITS BEING REBUILT BY WREN BETWEEN 1680 AND 1688.

UNTIL THE WIDENING OF THE THOROUGHFARE ROUND THE CHURCH COMPELLED ITS REMOVAL, THE SOUTH ENTRANCE HAD AN IMPRESSIVE PORTICO OF SIX IONIC COLUMNS. DOCTOR SAMUEL JOHNSON WAS A REGULAR WORSHIPPER AT THE CHURCH DURING HIS RESIDENCE IN LONDON, AND IN 1851 THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION, WRITTEN BY DR. CROLY, RECTOR OF ST. STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK, WAS PLACED ON A PILLAR NEAR HIS ACCUSTOMED SEAT.

“IN THIS PEW, AND BESIDE THIS PILLAR, FOR MANY YEARS ATTENDED DIVINE SERVICE, THE CELEBRATED DR. JOHNSON, THE PHILOSOPHER, THE POET, THE GREAT LEXICOGRAPHER, THE PROFOUND MORALIST AND CHIEF WRITER OF HIS TIME. BORN 1709; DIED 1784. IN REMEMBRANCE AND HONOUR OF NOBLE FACULTIES NOBLY EMPLOYED, SOME INHABITANTS OF THE PARISH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES HAVE PLACED THIS SLIGHT MEMORIAL. A.D. 1851.”



ST. MARY-LE-STRAND

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-STRAND WAS BUILT BETWEEN 1714 AND 1717 FROM DESIGNS BY JAMES GIBBS. ITS FEW MINOR ARCHITECTURAL DEFECTS PROVIDE ONE OF THE MANY INSTANCES WHERE THE INTERFERENCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS WITH THE DESIGNS OF THE ARCHITECT HAS NOT TENDED TO IMPROVEMENT. DURING THE LAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS THE CHURCH HAS UNDERGONE CONSIDERABLE ALTERATIONS, AMONG WHICH MAY BE NOTED PARTICULARLY THE ELABORATE DECORATIONS OF WITHERS, AN ARCHITECT OF STRONG GOTHIC TASTES.

STANDING ON THE SITE FORMALLY OCCUPIED BY THE OLD MAYPOLE, ST. MARY-LE-STRAND FORMS A WORTHY NEIGHBOUR TO WREN'S ST.

CLEMENT DANES.



XVII.

ST. DUNSTAN'S, FLEET STREET

IN THE DAYS WHEN DR. JOHNSON WAS A FAMILIAR FIGURE IN FLEET STREET, OLD ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, WITH ITS TWO FAMOUS WOODEN GIANTS STRIKING THE HOURS, WAS AN IMPORTANT CITY BUILDING. SINCE ITS RE-BUILDING IN 1831 BY J. SHAW, HOWEVER, IT HAS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLY BY REASON OF THE BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE SPRUNG UP WITHIN ITS IMMEDIATE VICINITY. ITS TALL TOWER IS DISTINCTIVE, BUT THE CHURCH ITSELF IS ALMOST LOST TO VIEW, BEING, AS IT WERE, CRUSHED INTO INSIGNIFICANCE BETWEEN THE NEW BUILDINGS ON EITHER SIDE, ONE THE OFFICES OF THE "LAW LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY," AND THE OTHER THE OFFICES OF THE "DUNDEE ADVERTISER."



XVIII.

230 STRAND—BOOKSHOP

SITUATED IMMEDIATELY OPPOSITE THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE, NUMBER 230 IS ONE OF SEVERAL BOOKSHOPS IN THE STRAND. IN APPEARANCE, HOWEVER, IT HAS LITTLE IN COMMON WITH ITS MORE MODERN COMPETITORS. THE RUINOUS STATE OF ITS WALLS, ITS NARROW DOORWAY, ITS SMALL SINGLE SHOP WINDOW, ARE TYPICAL OF THE BOOKSHOP OF THE EIGHTEENTH AND EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURIES.



XIX.

LUDGATE HILL

LUDGATE HILL, WITH ITS RAILWAY BRIDGE AT THE BOTTOM AND ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AT THE TOP, IS ONE OF LONDON'S BUSIEST THOROUGHFARES.

LEIGH HUNT REMINDS US THAT IT WAS ON LUDGATE HILL THAT THE OLD BELLE SAUVAGE INN STOOD. IN ITS COURTYARD, BELLE SAUVAGE YARD, THE FAMOUS TARLTON WAS WONT TO ACT BEFORE AUDIENCES CONSISTING OF TRAVELLERS RESTING AT THE INN. THE INNKEEPER AND HIS SERVANTS. ON THE SPOT WHERE FORMERLY STOOD THE OLD LUDGATE, SIR THOMAS WYATT'S INSURRECTION AGAINST QUEEN MARY WAS CHECKED AND EVENTUALLY DEFEATED.



XX.

ST. PAUL'S OVER BLACKFRIARS

IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE WREN'S MASTERPIECE FROM MANY POINTS, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE RIVER, THE WAREHOUSES AND WHARVES PROVIDE THE MOST FITTING FOREGROUND FROM WHICH TO VIEW ST. PAUL'S. SEEN FROM BLACKFRIARS, THE BLACKENED DOME OF ST. PAUL'S, WITH ITS CROSS OF GOLD AND ITS TALL SPIRES, IS GENERALLY AGREED TO BE ONE OF LONDON'S MOST FASCINATING VIEWS.



XXI.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL ON LUDGATE HILL

FEW MEN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY WERE GREATER ADMIRERS OF LONDON IN GENERAL AND ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL IN PARTICULAR THAN LORD TENNYSON. IT IS RECORDED THAT ON ONE OCCASION WHEN TENNYSON AND FITZGERALD TOGETHER VISITED ST PAUL'S, THE FORMER OBSERVED: "MERELY AS AN ENCLOSED SPACE IN A HUGE CITY THIS IS VERY FINE"; AND WHEN THEY GOT OUT INTO THE OPEN, IN THE MIDST OF THE "CENTRAL ROAR": "THIS IS THE MIND; THAT IS A MOOD OF IT." DURING THE REIGN OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR OLD ST. PAUL'S WAS A LARGE GOTHIC BUILDING, SEVEN HUNDRED FEET LONG, WITH NOBLE ARCHES AND TALL SPIRE. SUBSEQUENTLY IT WAS DESTROYED IN THE GREAT FIRE OF 1666. THE NEW ST. PAUL'S WAS BUILT BY CHRISTOPHER WREN, AND IS VERY RIGHTLY CONSIDERED HIS MASTERPIECE. DURING HIS LIFETIME, HOWEVER, HIS CONTEMPORARIES OFFERED HIM LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE EFFORT "TO RECONCILE AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE THE GOTHIC WITH A BETTER MANNER OF ARCHITECTURE." THE BALUSTRADE THAT SURMOUNTS THE MAIN BUILDING WAS NOT INTENDED BY WREN BUT INSISTED ON BY THE COMMISSIONERS. WREN, ON REFERRING TO THE MATTER ONE DAY SAID, "I NEVER DESIGNED A BALUSTRADE, BUT LADIES THINK NOTHING WELL WITHOUT AN EDGING." THE PRESENT BUILDING HAS BEEN OPEN FOR SERVICE FOR MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES, AND WITHIN ITS PRECINCTS, FROM TIME TO TIME, HAVE BEEN BURIED GREAT PAINTERS, POETS, SOLDIERS, AND PHILANTHROPISTS.



XXII.

GUILDHALL

APART FROM ITS OFFICIAL IMPORTANCE AS ONE OF THE COURTS OF THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COMMON COUNCIL, THE GUILDHALL HAS CONSIDERABLE CLAIM TO PUBLIC RECOGNITION ON ACCOUNT OF ITS UNIQUE COLLECTION OF ROMAN ANTIQUITIES. THIS COLLECTION BEGAN WITH THE DISCOVERIES MADE DURING THE BUILDING OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, AND FROM THAT TIME ONWARDS HAS GROWN IN HISTORICAL INTEREST AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITS CRYPT AND WALLS, THE OLD BUILDING WAS ENTIRELY REBUILT AFTER ITS PARTIAL DESTRUCTION IN THE GREAT FIRE OF 1666. THE PRESENT FRONT AND FINE GOTHIC ROOF WERE BUILT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

THE GREAT STONE HALL, WITH ITS STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, ITS STATUES OF CHATHAM, NELSON, AND PITT, ITS TWO MODERN GIANTS CALLED GOG AND MAGOG, IS CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING SIX THOUSAND PERSONS. IN THIS HALL THE MAYORAL BANQUETS AND IMPORTANT "CITY" FUNCTIONS ARE HELD.



XXIII.

THE MONUMENT

THE MONUMENT IS "THE" MONUMENT OF LONDON. TALL AND SLENDER, IT STANDS LIKE A MAMMOTH, IMMOVABLE SENTRY AT THE APPROACH TO LONDON BRIDGE. THE ORIGINAL INSCRIPTION, NOW EFFACED, WAS A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF THE ANTI-CATHOLIC OPINION OF THE PUBLIC LATE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. ITS REFERENCE TO THE "HORRID PLOTT" OF "THE POPISH FACTIO" ENCOURAGED POPE TO WRITE :—

" . . . LONDON'S COLUMN, POINTING TO THE SKIES,
LIKE A TALL BULLY, LIFTS ITS HEAD AND LIES."

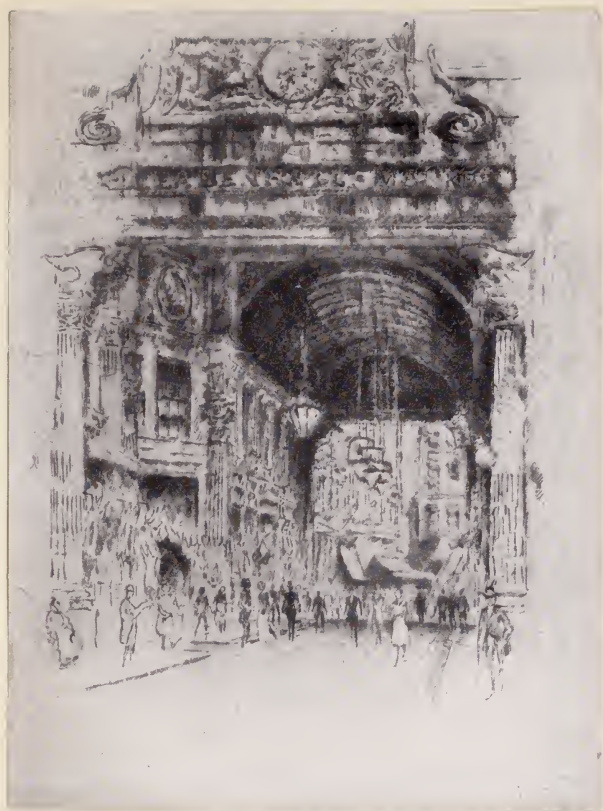
FROM ITS SUMMIT, GAINED BY CLIMBING A SPIRAL STAIRCASE WITHIN ITS WALLS, MAY BE ENJOYED A VIEW OF LONDON, NORTH, SOUTH EAST AND WEST, WHICH IS PROBABLY UNSURPASSED.



XXIV.

LEADENHALL MARKET.

WE CAN BOAST OF FEW TRACES OF OLD ROMAN LONDON, BUT OF THE LITTLE THAT REMAINS TO US, "LONDON STONE," THE LOCALITY OF LEADENHALL MARKET, IS PROBABLY THE MOST WIDELY KNOWN. IT WAS OF LEADENHALL MARKET THAT STOW SAID : "NOW WE ARE IN THE VERY HEART OF THE CITY. HERE HATH BEEN, FOR TIME OUT OF MIND, A CORN-MARKET. AND HERE ARE PILLORY AND STOCKS, BUT THIS PILLORY IS FOR FALSE DEALING ONLY. THE GREATER PILLORY IS IN CHEAPSIDE." THE PILLORY AND STOCKS NO LONGER REMAIN, BUT THE MARKET ITSELF GROWS WITH THE YEARS.

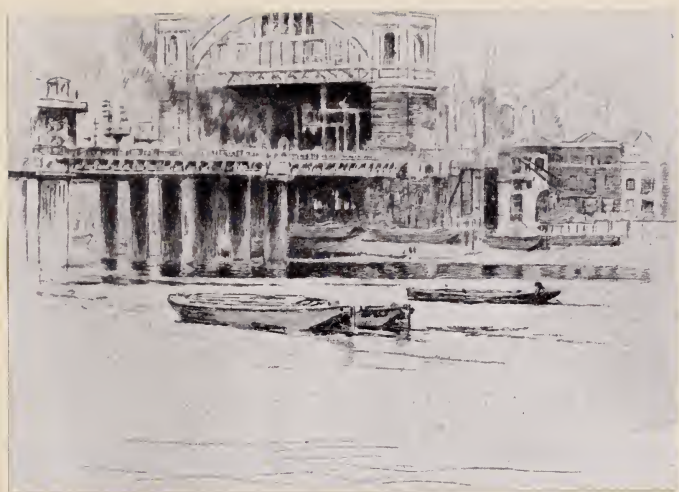


XXV.

CANNON STREET STATION

ON THE SITE WHERE NOW STANDS CANNON STREET STATION STOOD AT ONE TIME THE OLD STEELYARD, GUILDÆ AULA TEUTONICORUM. IN THIS IMPOSING HOUSE OF STONE, WITH ITS SQUARE COURT AND NOBLE HALL, MET AT INTERVALS THE MERCHANT MEMBERS OF THE HANSEATIC LEAGUE, WHO FOR NEARLY THREE HUNDRED YEARS ENJOYED THE MONOPOLY OF THE IMPORT TRADE WITH GERMANY AND THE BALTIC.

FROM THE TOP OF THE STONE STEPS, WHICH FORM THE FORE-FRONT OF CANNON STREET STATION, A CAPITAL VIEW MAY BE OBTAINED OF THE SURROUNDING IMPORTANT BUILDINGS





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